

Soy ingredients producer expanding

As director of research and food technology at Soy Innovations International®, Dr. Wilmot Wijeratne seeks to deliver the finest soy ingredients to the food industry and increase human consumption of soy-based foods.

“We offer food manufacturers a product mix consisting of low-fat soy flours, textured soy proteins, soy/rice cereals and soy oil,” explains Wijeratne. “Our mechanical manufacturing process is adapted from the InstaPro extruder of Triple F Inc., our parent company.”

InstaPro technology is a thermal process that subjects soybeans to a high temperature, destroying undesirable enzymes, releasing soybean oil for easy separation and improving the digestibility of soy protein.

“Because we do not separate the soybean into components, the natural balance of the nutrients is maintained throughout the process,” says Wijeratne. “Our products are truly natural.” Soy Innovations’ ingredients are used in bakery, pasta, cereal, confectionery and beverage applications. “Customers also use our products as meat extenders or meat alternatives in vegetarian foods, as well as in energy bars and drinks,” says Wijeratne.

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Tramontina appointed IDED Director

Governor Chet Culver has appointed Mike Tramontina as Director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED). Tramontina has served as Interim Director of the agency since January 2007. “I’m pleased that Mike Tramontina, a proven leader, has accepted the position of IDED Director. He has experience in the public and private sectors and will provide a steady hand as the economy here in Iowa continues to evolve,” said Governor Culver.

Mike Tramontina said, “I am honored Governor Culver has asked me to serve as the Director of the Department of Economic Development. I look forward to working with Governor Culver, the legislature and the Economic Development Board to continue expanding economic opportunity across the entire state.”

Prior to working at IDED Tramontina served as the Director of the Iowa Department



of Management for two years during the Vilsack/Pederson administration. He moved into that position after serving four and a half years as Executive Director of the Iowa Finance Authority where he coordinated the State’s housing policy. Tramontina has spent his career in the areas of government and finance. Tramontina is a native of Sioux City and a graduate of University of Iowa.

2nd phase of insurance expansion



Construction is underway on the second phase expansion of Nationwide Insurance in downtown Des Moines. Shown in this architect’s sketch is the \$142 million, five-story building that will house 2,200 workers of Nationwide, Allied Insurance and Nationwide Agribusiness. In exchange for incentives from the Iowa Department of Economic Development, Nationwide is growing operations in Des Moines and hiring 1,570 more employees. The building is expected to be ready by December 2008. Upon completion, Nationwide companies will occupy 1.167 million square feet of office space in downtown Des Moines, Iowa.



New Dubuque headquarters



The Durrant Group, Inc., has released the proposed design for an 18,000 sq. ft. headquarters building in the Port of Dubuque to house their growing operations. The Iowa Economic Development Board awarded \$50,000 from the Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA) and Enterprise Zone tax benefits to assist the city of Dubuque in recruiting the project. The firm envisions creating nine jobs and retaining 10 at an average hourly wage of \$45.98 per hour over the next three years. Durrant currently employs 300 persons across twelve offices in seven states, including Hawaii.

Building AGA's future



AGA Commercial Products has broken ground in Cedar Rapids for the \$6 million office, production and distribution facility where it will manufacture commercial microwave ovens. Ryan Companies designed the 90,000 sq. ft. plant which will enclose \$9.3 million in machinery and equipment.

The Iowa Economic Development Board awarded the new plant \$300,000 from the Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA). Employment will be about 112 persons with 58 of the jobs paying an average wage of \$30.26 per hour.

AGA Foodservice Group bought the commercial microwave line from Whirlpool Corporation and is still manufacturing products temporarily under a lease arrangement at the Amana plant. AGA hopes to be producing at the Cedar Rapids facility by November 2007.

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To take advantage of the growing international demand for food products containing the protein rich, heart-healthy soybean, Soy Innovations is in the midst of a \$5.2-million expansion in Indianola, Iowa. Once the project is complete, Soy Innovations will double manufacturing capacity to 100 tons of output per day.

The new production facility, which will be certified as both organic and kosher, will create 12 new jobs and provide a new local market for growers of identity-preserved, non-GMO soybeans. The project was leveraged by a \$100,000 award from the Iowa Department of Economic Development-administered Value-Added Agricultural Products and Processes Financial Assistance Program (VAAPFAP).

If you would like a confidential discussion of your company expansion, phone a project manager at the Iowa Department of Economic Development, 800.245.4692.

New Denison food expansion

APPA Fine Foods, which moved its cooked poultry products operation from California to Denison last year, has found new success in Iowa and is planning a \$1.3 million expansion to introduce a new product line. Adding 4,400 sq. ft. and grilling equipment to the plant are part of an expansion that will create 28 jobs paying an average starting wage of \$13.94 per hour. The expansion was awarded \$132,500 from the Economic Development Set-Aside (EDSA) program by the Iowa Department of Economic Development and Enterprise Zone tax benefits for job creation and new business investment.

More egg processing in Buena Vista County

Integrated egg producer and processor Rembrandt Enterprises was awarded tax benefits for expansion by the Iowa Department of Economic Development. Using the High Quality Jobs Creation program, the company will create 42 new jobs in Rembrandt. Twenty-one of those jobs pay an average wage of \$15.51 per hour.

Rembrandt is installing new technology to pasteurize and package raw eggs for the food service, ingredient and retail markets as well as equipment associated with other egg products.

With operations in Rembrandt and Spencer, Rembrandt Enterprises currently has 141 employees and inventory of over five million chickens.

Success in Internet content management

T8Design, a Cedar Falls provider of Internet software for online business processes, was awarded \$100,000 for expansion from Iowa's Community Economic Betterment Account (CEBA) by the Iowa Economic Development Board. Company growth of 37 additional employees, with 21 of those positions paying an average wage of \$26.44 per hour, is expected with this expansion.

Located in the Cedar Falls Industrial Park, T8Design will expand into 8,600 sq. ft. of office space over the next three years.

T8Design CEO Trevor Hendrickson said, "Our growth has been incredible and we need to at least double the staff to match our business demand." Hendrickson co-founded T8Design with Wade Arnold in 2003 as a two-man operation based in their homes.

Hendrickson and Arnold are both graduates of the University of Northern Iowa. Customers of T8Design's content management include Nike, McDonald's, and John Deere.

Iowa 3rd in wind energy



MidAmerican Energy's Century Project, located in Wright and Hamilton counties in north central Iowa, is part of Iowa's growing base of wind energy generation. The American Wind Energy Association reports that Iowa remained third in wind energy generation at the close of 2006 behind Texas and California. Iowa's installed capacity is 936 Mega Watts.

New e-commerce jobs for Clinton

A folding carton manufacturer in Clinton was awarded a Loan and Credit Guarantee to expand their internet sales and direct delivery shipping of gourmet bakery boxes and packaging for other small businesses.

The \$275,000 loan guarantee was approved by the Iowa Economic Development Board for Big River Packaging. The project retains 15 jobs paying an average hourly wage of \$20.74 per hour.

Big River has constructed an Internet storefront, www.BRPBoxShop.com, to market innovative packaging ideas that are manufactured and distributed from the Clinton facility.



Iowa exports increase 14%

Iowa exports of manufactured and value-added foods totaled about \$8.4 billion in 2006, up from \$7.3 billion in 2005. Iowa's top export categories are industrial machinery, vehicles, meat, electrical equipment, food waste and animal feed. Although Iowa exports flow to many other countries around the world, the state's five leading customers are Canada, Mexico, Japan, Germany and the United Kingdom.

For more information about exporting, contact the Iowa Department of Economic Development International Office at 515.242.4743.

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Pocahontas company heating up

Three entrepreneurs in Pocahontas have developed another use for Iowa's massive corn production. Their company, S.A.R. Biomass Energy Systems has developed highly efficient furnaces that utilize corn as the fuel to heat homes and businesses.

Jason Raveling, SAR co-owner, is bullish on the company's prospects. "Even at higher corn prices, our furnaces are much more efficient than traditional natural gas or propane fired furnaces," he says. "The cost per BTU of burning corn is still less than other heating sources.

"For example, one bushel of corn can heat the same amount of space that it takes 5.1 gallons (at \$1.35 per gallon) of LP to heat," says Raveling. "And, this is before we take into account the efficiencies of our furnace."

The 14-employee SAR is building an additional 10,000 sq. ft. of manufacturing space

to produce its commercial and residential furnaces. The expansion was aided by a series of tax credits and benefits from the Iowa Department of Economic Development's Enterprise Zone program.

Now in its third year of operation, SAR currently has 36 dealers in eight states. Raveling estimates that of the nearly 1,000 units in operation, 50 percent have been installed on farms.

The company has also just finished a second trial-run of a corn-fueled grain dryer.

Raveling, who owns SAR along with Theron Anderson and Randy Severson, estimates that drying 5,500 bushels of corn would cost \$250 using corn as fuel compared to \$740 using LP.

Biomass energy products are providing an alternative to consumers wanting a home-grown energy source.

Ethanol project begins in Dyersville

US BioEnergy Corporation has broken ground on a 200-acre site in Dyersville for a \$165 million ethanol plant. The new facility is expected to open in May 2008.

The Iowa Department of Economic Development awarded tax benefits from the High Quality Jobs Creation (HQJC) program to US BioEnergy.

The new plant will create 40 jobs, with 28 paying an average starting wage of \$18.99 per hour, in Dyersville.

At full output of 100 million gallons per year, the ethanol facility will provide a market for 37 million bushels of corn.